

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-16 (cancelled)

Claim 17 (previously presented): A prosthetic knee, comprising:

 a femoral component having a hinge post rotatably connected thereto;
 a hinge post extension extending from said hinge post;
 a tibial component including a hinge post extension aperture, whereby said hinge post extension is positioned within said hinge post extension aperture when the prosthetic knee is operably assembled, whereby said hinge post is fully constrained by said tibial component against displacement in a direction perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of said hinge post extension, and whereby said femoral component is rotatable about said longitudinal axis of said hinge post extension; and

 a meniscal component positioned between said femoral component and said tibial component, said femoral component including a condylar bearing surface, said meniscal component including a cooperative bearing surface abutting said condylar bearing surface of said femoral component.

Claims 18-20 (cancelled)

Claim 21 (new): The prosthetic knee of Claim 17, wherein said tibial component further includes guide means for guiding rotation of said meniscal component about an axis substantially perpendicular to a tibial tray of said tibial component, said guide means further for preventing substantial liftoff of said meniscal component away from said tibial component.

Claim 22 (new): The prosthetic knee of Claim 17, wherein said hinge post includes an elongate hinge post extension aperture sized for placement of said hinge post extension therein, whereby

said hinge post extension traverses a first end of said elongate hinge post extension aperture and protrudes from a second end of said elongate hinge post extension aperture when operably positioned therein, said first end and said second end of said elongate hinge post extension aperture comprising opposing ends of said elongate hinge post extension aperture.

Claim 23 (new): The prosthetic knee of Claim 21, wherein said guide means limits rotation of said meniscal component about said axis to a total of 60° of rotation.

Claim 24 (new): The prosthetic knee of Claim 17, wherein said tibial component includes a rotation protrusion cooperating with a cutout of said meniscal component to guide rotation of said meniscal component about an axis substantially perpendicular to a tibial tray of said tibial component, said rotation protrusion including a lip extending substantially parallel to said tibial tray of said tibial component, said rotation protrusion lip facing an opposing lip formed in said cutout in said meniscal component, said meniscal component lip positioned between said tibial tray and said rotation protrusion lip.

Claim 25 (new): The prosthetic knee of Claim 24, wherein said cutout in said meniscal component is sized whereby said rotation protrusion cooperates with said cutout to limit rotation of said meniscal component about said axis to a total of 60° of rotation.

Claim 26 (new): The prosthetic knee of Claim 17, wherein said cooperative bearing surface includes a first portion and a second portion, said first portion having a first radius of curvature, said second portion having a second radius of curvature, whereby an axis of rotation of said femoral components remains constant during flexion and extension of the prosthetic knee when said first portion contacts said cooperative bearing surface of said meniscal component, whereby said axis of rotation of said femoral component moves away from said meniscal component when said second portion of said femoral component contacts said cooperative bearing surface of said meniscal component, whereby said second portion of said femoral component contacts said meniscal component at 3° of hyperextension of the prosthetic knee.

Claim 27 (new): The prosthetic knee of Claim 17, further comprising:

a bearing box connected to said femoral component, said bearing box interposed between said hinge post and said femoral component, whereby said hinge post will not contact said femoral component during flexion and extension of the prosthetic knee, said bearing box including a hyperextension stop, said hinge post including a hyperextension stop surface, said hyperextension stop contacting said hyperextension stop surface to prevent further hyperextension of the prosthetic knee beyond a predetermined point of hyperextension.

Claim 28 (new): The prosthetic knee of Claim 27, wherein said hyperextension stop comprises a convex protrusion.

Claim 29 (new): The prosthetic knee of Claim 27, wherein said hyperextension stop surface comprises a concave portion of said elongate hinge post extension aperture.

Claim 30 (new): The prosthetic knee of Claim 27, wherein said predetermined point of hyperextension comprises 4° of hyperextension of the prosthetic knee.

Claim 31 (new): The prosthetic knee of Claim 17, wherein said hinge post extension includes a threaded aperture.

Claim 32 (new): The prosthetic knee of Claim 17, wherein said tibial component includes an anterior rotation protrusion, and a posterior rotation protrusion cooperating with an anterior cutout and a posterior cutout of said meniscal component, respectively, to guide rotation of said meniscal component about an axis substantially perpendicular to a tibial tray of said tibial component, said anterior rotation protrusion including an anterior lip extending substantially parallel to said tibial tray of said tibial component, said posterior rotation protrusion including a posterior lip extending substantially parallel to said tibial tray of said tibial component, said anterior rotation protrusion lip facing an anterior opposing lip formed in said anterior cutout of said meniscal component, said anterior meniscal component lip being positioned between said tibial tray and said anterior rotation protrusion lip, said posterior rotation protrusion lip facing a posterior opposing lip formed in said posterior cutout of said meniscal component, said posterior

meniscal component lip being positioned between said tibial tray and said posterior rotation protrusion lip.

Claim 33 (new): The prosthetic knee of Claim 22, further comprising:

a set screw, said first end of said elongate hinge post extension aperture being threaded, whereby said set screw will engage the threads of said elongate hinge post extension aperture, said hinge post extension including a locking taper, said hinge post extension aperture including a cooperating taper, whereby threading of said set screw into said elongate hinge post extension aperture forces said locking taper into locking engagement with said cooperating taper.

Claim 34 (new): The prosthetic knee of Claim 17, wherein said hinge post is rotatably connected to said femoral component via a hinge pin, said hinge pin rotatable about a longitudinal axis of said hinge pin, said hinge pin including a polygonal indentation on a first end thereof; and

a hinge pin plug positioned within said polygonal indentation and flush with said first end of said hinge pin.

Claim 35 (new): The prosthetic knee of Claim 34, wherein said hinge pin plug is formed from an ultra high molecular weight polyethylene.

Claim 36 (new): The prosthetic knee of Claim 17, wherein said meniscal component includes a hinge post aperture, whereby said hinge post is positioned within said hinge post aperture when said prosthetic knee is operably assembled.